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Field Day Past

Dan Scott WØRO

As a novice I attended my first Field Day not knowing exactly what to expect. I timed my arrival so I would enter the area within a few minutes of the posted setup time. Wow! What a parade of vehicles down the lane between fields and back to the pasture. Although I only knew a couple people, I quickly felt at home. Right! Just like at home I was immediately put to work just for crossing the threshold. There were tents to put up, generators to move around and antennas to build, but no vacuuming or dishes to wash (yet).

I really do not remember too much about the work other than working on the 5-element 40-meter dual direction inverted-V beam. Or was it two inverted-V beams with a common reflector? I have absolutely no clue if it worked well; I do know it took a long time to set up because we had to slide the elements up and down the center beam (rope), but eventually the thing was tuned.

There was a LOT of food and I'm sure I ate my fill. What I remember most was the different radio tents. Absolutely, positively, definitely, no conceivable way could wind move those tents because they were very well anchored. All those button, knobs, and

miscellaneous do-dads looked as "cool" as a jet cockpit to me.

As a novice, my intention was to get my hands on the key and impress the folks with my air sizzling 12 words a minute. When I approached the tent, I hurried inside because it sure sounded like a swarm of bumble bees just on the other side. Now how in the world could anyone pick out the the dits and dahs with all of the noise? On top of that, each dit or dah I understood was actually made of even more dits and dahs. Even with all the noise and confusion, that Field Day in 1980 KA9IAB worked his first Single Side Band (SSB).



Some aspects of Field Day have changed since then. For example, a good breeze would send us transmitter hunting somewhere near Sunflower Mountain (highest point in Kansas). Once the transmitter is found and set back up again, it puts out more power and filters out adjacent signals better. The rules have changes, too; in retrospect, the Get On

The Air (GOTA) station concept would have been great for my first Field Day.

One thing for certain, from setup to take down, from eyeball rag chewing to on-the-air contacts, and for the perspective HAM or old-timer, Field Day is always fun for everyone involved.

Hope to see you at this year's Field-Day!

73,
Dan WØRO

Ham Cram, or the One-Day Tech Class

Dan Romanchik KB6NU



I used to be skeptical of one-day ham radio classes, sometimes called "Ham Cram" classes. After teaching a couple of these classes over the past year, however, I've become a supporter of this method of teaching, at least for the Technician Class license test.

One reason I'm an advocate of the one-day class is that I think a lot of people "learn by doing." I'm not an expert on pedagogy, but my guess is that more people learn by doing than learn by reading or by listening. That being the case, isn't it a good thing that new hams get their licenses quickly so that they can begin doing--thereby learning--more quickly?

Second, people are busy. Tell them that the class is going to eat up one evening a week for six to eight weeks and a lot of them will tell you that they just don't have the time to do it. Squeezing in six to eight hours on a Saturday is, however, something that they can do.

Critics of the one-day classes say that if people just cram for the test, they may learn enough for just long enough to pass the test, but they really don't know enough to be "good hams," whatever that may be. There's some truth to this. It's important not to abandon them once they get their tickets. I encourage all of the students to join a ham radio club and make myself available to answer any questions they may have as they get started in ham radio.

Critics also say that releasing this horde on the amateur bands will create nothing but chaos. Fortunately, I've personally seen no evidence that

the hundreds of folks that have taken these classes across the country have created said chaos.

Make Your Next Class a One-Day Class

I would encourage you to give it a try. Make your next Tech class a one-day class. You don't conduct Tech classes? Well, get started! Another benefit of the one-day class format is that it's easier to find teachers since it takes less time for them, too.

As I mentioned previously, over the past year, I've taught two "ham cram" classes. We've learned a few things along the way. Perhaps the most important thing is to stress that students should study the material before coming to class. The study guide we use is one that I've written. You can find the KB6NU No-Nonsense Study Guide online at <http://www.kb6nu.com>. You can also purchase a pre-printed version of the study guide at www.booklocker.com/books/3408.html

Another key is to not get bogged down on a particular topic. Our class runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at which time the VEs come in and give the test. To cover all of the material, you have to keep one eye on the clock and keep plowing ahead. To help you do this, a set of PowerPoint slides for teachers of Ham Cram Tech classes is available at <http://w9pe.us/>.

We conducted our first class last August. Nine out of twelve passed the test that day; the remaining three passed on their second attempt. In early May, we taught our second one-day class. This time, eleven out of twelve passed.

I am encouraged by these results, and I am planning to make these one-day classes a regularly scheduled event here in Ann Arbor. Time will tell if these people become active, life-long hams, but so far, so good. If you have any questions about our experience with the one-day class, please e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

DITS & BITS

Wanted 55-foot to 65-foot self-supporting crank-up tower to support a TH7DXX tri-band beam, 10- element 2-meter beam and 6-element 440-meter beam. Call Tony NØDDQ at 719-561-0444 or 710-582-0272.

ARES

Monthly Training Meetings Begin



Tom Dawson, Pikes Peak ARES emergency coordinator, has started up monthly meetings for ARES beginning on May 19. This is new to us, at least new in the past 10-15 years since there have been no regular monthly meetings in our district. Tom wants this to be a great opportunity to get invaluable training and to also socialize and get to know the other people in the group. We typically participate in public service events, exercises or other incidents when we have time, but those members who don't participate often sometimes feel a little out of the loop with what's happening and who's doing what, and missing out on seeing what other members do to improve their response capabilities. The first meeting on May 19 focused on go-kits. The equipment and storage ideas presented by several members demonstrated just what some folks do to make their stations more portable and to improve their efficiency.

Other topics presented included a preview of the public service events coming up this summer, including support for the Triple Crown of Running events, and the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, the Democratic National Convention, and a South Central Region exercise in October. Regarding the DNC, amateur radio support is needed for the Democratic National Convention

in Denver this August. This is a BIG event and will require operators from multiple districts to cover all of the locations and shifts. This is almost a 24-hour a day event from Monday, August 25 thru Thursday, August 28. It's not likely that operators will be needed at the convention itself, but they will be staffing various positions around the city, notably at hospitals and EOCs. Consider the events that amateur operators have been involved in during past National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercises, and that will give you a good idea what this event might be like. If you're registered in ARES and want to participate in this DNC event, please contact Tom Dawson KC0NRZ at KC0NRZ@arrl.net

The So. Central Region exercise will involve an "incident" in Fairplay, and the requirement to provide communications out of Fairplay to other counties in the So. Central Region (Teller, El Paso, Chaffee, Lake and Park). Little details are known about this exercise at this time. Stay tuned to the ARES nets for more information.

The next PPARES monthly meeting will be held on the third Monday of the month at 7 pm, at the Gold Hills Division police station on Moreno Ave, just west of 8th Street.

73,

Rob Roller N7LV



Field Day GOTA Station Dan Scott WØRO



The GOTA Station concept of Field Day, I feel, greatly enhanced the experience for so many people. GOTA is many people's first on-air amateur radio activity. For the inactive ham, GOTA creates a great opportunity for re-introduction. For the GOTA coach it provides a wonderful feeling of accomplishment as each new person at the radio moves from skittish to proficient.

Like all previous years, some rules change. This year, the ARRL rules committee focused on the GOTA station. One rule that remains is the need of the GOTA station to have a schedule of GOTA coaches lined up and available while the station is in operation. Operators from the previous year are ineligible. Eligibility for making contacts using the GOTA station are as follows:

- ✓ Anyone licensed since last year's Field Day, regardless of the license class. This means that if you just started and are very active, you may still operate the GOTA station
- ✓ If you bring an Amateur Radio operator who is generally inactive, that person may use the GOTA station for making contacts.
- ✓ Non-licensed persons under direct supervision of an appropriate control operator.

The GOTA station can rack up a boat load of points too!

A GOTA operator who successfully completes 20 QSOs, receive a 20-point bonus. For every set of 20 contacts, 20 bonus points are awarded up to a total of 100 bonus points. Of course, the same operator can continue making contacts, but receives no more bonuses. Additional GOTA operators continue earning bonus points for complete sets of 20 contacts up to a maximum of 500 points for the GOTA station.

By having a designated GOTA coach supervising the operator of the station, answering questions and talking them through contacts, the GOTA bonus total will be doubled. However, the GOTA coach may not make contacts.

Therefore, a GOTA station receiving all the bonus points and maintaining a designated GOTA coach earns 1500 points. Sign up to be a GOTA coach!

If you were licensed since Field Day 2007, have been mostly inactive, or have family and friends that might want to get on the air, drop by. It's sure to be a great time!

73,
Dan
WØRO

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The PPRAA/VE team holds testing sessions at 9 AM at the Colorado Technical University, 4435 North Chestnut (just west of I-25 and just south of Garden of the Gods Rd).

Exam fee: \$14.00 for Elements 2, 3, and/or 4, payable to ARRL/VEC.
No same-day retakes of same element. Walk-ins allowed; pre-registration not necessary.

BRING: Photo ID, original and copy of valid ham license and/or valid CSCE, and FRN for licensed hams.

Contact:

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA at 719-632-8254 or [email](mailto:jackie@ppraa.org)

Online: ppraa.org or arrrl.org.

Mark your calendars:

Aug. 9, Oct. 11, Dec. 13

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2008

Attendees: Doug N7LEM, John KCØJFH, George KCØTVU, Dan ACØCC, Dennis NØABC, Mike KØMLA, and Sue KCØSYA.

President Doug Nielsen N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Minutes: Dan/Dennis moved/seconded to approve Board minutes as printed. Passed.

Reports

✚ **Treasurer's Report** – Dennis NØABC reported that we have \$9037.78 total in our accounts as of 14 May 2008.

✚ **Megafest** – June 7. Raffle Tickets are available. More advertising will be done to try to attract more vendors. Rob will also try to get a D-Star forum for the event.

✚ **Field Day** – Web page is updated to reflect recent changes. Dan KBØPPM still needs volunteers for the digital and CW stations.

✚ **COQP 2008** – We have received \$400 from CCARC for plaques.

✚ **HamCon 2009** - We still need a replacement HamCon representative to attend monthly meetings in Castle Rock. If interested, please contact a Board member. Dan/John moved/seconded to reimburse the representative \$30 for each HamCon planning meeting trip after proof of meeting attendance is presented. Passed. Dan will post notice of this on the Reflector.

✚ **Zero Beat** - We still need an editor starting after the July issue. If interested, please contact a Board member or Jackie Cornwell.

✚ **Special Event Stations** -- No new info on this topic.

✚ **Bylaws & Club Manual** - Officers and Board members: please review your applicable sections

of the Bylaws and make recommendations for changes via e-mail. Please do this before the June Board meeting. One need for change is to allow Board member voting via e-mail.

✚ **Expenditure of Raffle Funds** - Dennis will put in for an extension of time to spend this money from the Secretary of State raffle administration. Doug will contact presidents of CMRG and PPFMA to discuss the possibilities of supporting a D-Star repeater system. We would also like to get a program presentation on the D-Star system.

New Business

- ✓ **Donated Equipment:** Recent acquisitions have expanded our inventory of equipment. We need to sort through this stuff to determine what we want to keep/sell/dump. This is planned for the last Saturday in May so we can get it done prior to Megafest. Sue suggested we consider a storage unit for our club equipment.
- ✓ **Fund Raising for a Club "Home":** Dennis talked about the possibility of having a club station facility for operating events, classes, meetings, etc.

Around the Table

- **Dennis** – mentioned about updating the website calendar.
- **George** – wondered about establishing a simplex freq for club contacts. 146.58 MHz is the current club call frequency.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7 PM, Monday, June 16, 2008, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Submitted by:
John Wishart KCØJFH
PPRAA Secretary
25 May 2008



PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2008

President Doug N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at Fargo's Pizza Co., followed by introductions around the room.

Silent Keys: None.

Minutes: The April meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Zero Beat.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis NØABC reported that we had a \$9037.78 total balance in our three accounts as of 14 May 2008.

Committee Reports

- **Megafest:** Rob N7LV - The date is Saturday, June 7 at Lewis Palmer High School in Monument. Setup is Friday, June 6 @ 6 PM. Raffle tickets are now available for purchase. Another planning meeting will be held in May.
- **Field Day:** Dan Scott KB0PPM – June 28-29, setup on June 27. Location is Fire Station on Hwy 105 in Monument. Volunteers are still needed to track contest bonuses, coordinate digital & CW stations. Contact Dan or a Board member if you can help.
- **Summer Picnic:** Aug 16, 2008. Dirty Woman Park in Monument has been reserved for this event. Meat and drinks will be provided by PPRAA. Please plan on bringing a salad, dessert, or side dish to share.
- **Colorado QSO Party 2008:** Date is September 20, 2008. More volunteers are still needed, particularly in scoring the event. If interested, please contact a Board member. Sponsors are doing well in supporting the award plaques.

New Business

- ❖ **Donations to the Club** - A big batch of donations of radio equipment has come to us. Nancy N6BLE and her mother donated equipment from her father, WØKJO, SK. Thanks to Nancy and her mom.
- ❖ **Club Vacancies** –
 - **Zero Beat Editor** – still needed by July for the August issue.

- **Hamcon 2009 Representative**- needed now. Will need to attend monthly meetings in Castle Rock. Gas reimbursement is available.

If you are interested in either the Zero Beat or Hamcon positions, please contact a Board member.

- ❖ **D-Star Information:** HRO donated equipment for a D-star system to the Colorado D-Star Association in Denver. CMRG is also considering a D-Star system for the Colorado Springs area. They have also requested donations for this system. We are considering this as a possible avenue for a donation. More information was requested from CMRG about the D-Star system.
- ❖ **Technical Education:** Mike WV7T presented award to Dick WØRAA for contesting excellence. Mike is taking prospective Techs and Generals for individual instruction.
- ❖ **Program:** Shel Radin KFØUR presented a terrific program on QRP (It's how to spell "Fun") operation.

Next Club Meeting: 7 PM, Wednesday, 11 June 2008, back at the Panera Bread Restaurant at Powers and S. Carefree (NE corner).

Next Board Meeting: 7 PM, Monday following club meeting, 16 June 2008, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation, 4110 Tutt Blvd.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Submitted by:
John Wishart KCØJFH
PPRAA Secretary
25 May 2008

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings PPRAA,

Hello from sunny 6 land. I write this sitting in my hotel room in the San Francisco Bay area. I

usually travel with at least a 2m HT so I can check out the local ham activity. This past week I ran across a repeater net of the sort I've never heard in Colorado or most other areas. One of the local East Bay repeaters hosts a net run every morning, Monday through Friday. It starts a little after 7 AM and runs until everyone who checked in has had at least two chances to make comments. They start with the mobile commuters who comment on the latest gas prices they've seen, traffic or weather conditions. Then they add the folks who are still at home having their morning coffee, etc. The amazing thing about this net was the number of folks who checked in. There seemed to be dozens of regulars and a couple of mornings the net ran for over two hours while they went around the check-in list twice. No ARRL Newsline filler or other content, just hams socializing. And they do this every morning five times a week!

I contrast this to our own weekly Thursday evening net that we suspended a couple of months ago for lack of participation and NCS volunteers until at least June. June is here and it is time to revitalize the weekly club net. If you are interested in acting as NCS, even once in a while, please contact Dan, ACØCC, at vice-president@ppraa.org. If we can get at least five folks to act as regular NCSs this would be something you would do less than once a month. So let's get the club back on the air at least once a

week. Californians run a daily net so how difficult can it be?

The club still needs to fill the position of Zero Beat Editor by the end of this month. Otherwise you could be reading one of the last issues of this fine newsletter. Jackie has done a terrific job over the last two years of making this a publication worth reading. It is now time for someone else to pick this up and continue the effort. If you act now, Jackie will take you through the process before her final edition and make it a smooth transition.

We also still need a club representative to the HamCon 2009 committee. This should be a very simple position. All you have to do is attend a monthly meeting up in Castle Rock and report back to the club with the current status and any activities the club will handle for HamCon next year. Due to the rapidly rising gas prices, the board has decided that we will help reimburse the cost of attending each meeting. Please contact the board at boardmembers@ppraa.org if you are interested in filling this position.

Remember to keep your calendar free for the PPRAA summer picnic on August 16th at Dirty Woman Park. Also, don't forget that this month's general membership meeting will be back at Panera Bread on Powers and South Carefree. We are trying to line up a presentation on D-Star so everyone can learn about this new technology and help us decide if we want to help sponsor its development in southern Colorado.

73,
Doug
Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM
PPRAA President

NONPROFIT STATUS

The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions or donations may be tax-deductible.



Contest Corner / Dave Sloan NØEOP

I am still in Indiana visiting with my sister and friends. I'll be leaving for God's Country (Colorado) on Saturday. Hope that the Memorial Day weekend traffic is not too bad. I did attend Dayton and really enjoyed the sights and sounds of the biggest ham radio show in the world. I also attended Contest University on Thursday before the Hamvention. I'll have a Dayton report for you next month along with some ideas from Contest University. For now, I'm going back to vacation mode. Here are the upcoming contests:

HF VHF+ Contest Title Phn CW Dig Exchange Sponsor's Web Site Logs Due

14 Jun 0000Z to 15 Jun 2400Z

3.5-28 Portugal Day **X** RS, serial or CT district or region www.rep.pt/pdf/contest_portugalday.pdf 1 Sep

14 Jun 0000Z to 14 Jun 2400Z

3.5-28 GACW WWSA CW DX Contest **X** RST, CQ zone gacw.no-ip.org 30 Jul

14 Jun 1500Z to 15 Jun 1500Z

3.5-28 West Virginia QSO Party **X X** RS(T), WV county or S/P/C www.qsl.net/wvsarc 20 Jul

14 Jun 1600Z to 15 Jun 0200Z CW--35 kHz from band edge, Phone--General segments

3.5-28 Digital Pentathlon - MFSK **X** Serial, 6-digit grid locator, power dqso.net/start.html 30 Jul

13 Jun 1800Z to 13 Jun 2200Z

50+ ARRL June VHF QSO Party X X www.arrl.org/contests 30 days

14 Jun 1800Z to 16 Jun 0300Z

14-21 Asia-Pacific Sprint **X** RST, serial jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt 7 days

15 Jun 1100Z to 15 Jun 1300Z

3.5-28 Spanish Islands Contest **X X X** RS(T), DIE number or serial www.ea5ol.net/die 60 days

17 Jun 0600Z to 17 Jun 1200Z

1.8-28 All-Asian DX Contest **X** RST, operator age (YL may send 00) www.jarl.or.jp/English 31 Jul

21 Jun 0000Z to 22 Jun 2400Z

50 SMIRK QSO Party **X X** SMIRK number, grid square www.smirk.org 1 Aug

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To: